



# How to Disconnect a Car or Truck Battery

Disconnect the battery so that you can safely work on your vehicle's other electrical components.

Written By: Jeff Suovanen



## INTRODUCTION

It's always a good idea to disconnect the battery before working on your vehicle's ignition system or other electrical components. (If you need to fully remove or replace the battery, [follow this guide instead.](#))

This guide uses a Toyota Corolla to demonstrate the procedure, which is similar for most motor vehicles.

**Note:** Disconnecting your battery may erase certain stored settings, such as radio/navigation presets and power window memory. Consult your owner's manual for details.




### TOOLS:

- [Socket Set](#) (1)
  - [Adjustable Wrench](#) (1)
  - [Leather Work Gloves](#) (1)
  - [Shop Towels or Rags](#) (1)
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## Step 1 — How to Disconnect a Car or Truck Battery



 Before you begin, switch the ignition **off** and remove the key.


- Make sure the transmission is in Park (or first gear if you have a manual gearbox) and that the parking brake is engaged.

 Put on work gloves and safety goggles if you have them available.

- In addition to being dirty, the battery contains corrosive agents and may release flammable gases.
- Gloves can also help protect you from an unpleasant shock if you accidentally mishandle the battery.

## Step 2 — Open the hood (bonnet)



 Most motor vehicle batteries are located in the engine bay, under the hood (a.k.a. bonnet). If your battery is located elsewhere, [skip to Step 5](#).

- If you're not sure, simply continue reading.
- Pull the hood release lever. It's usually located inside the car, near the steering wheel.

### Step 3




- Raise the hood by simultaneously lifting and pressing up on the hood latch release (usually located beneath the front edge of the hood, near the center or center-right).

### Step 4



- ① At this point, depending on the vehicle, your hood may raise and support itself automatically.
- If not, use one hand to hold the hood open temporarily while securing the hood with the prop rod:
  - Lift one end of the prop rod up or out to release it from the front area of the engine bay.
  - Swing the end of the prop rod up and slide it into the cutout on the underside of the hood.

 Make sure the hood is well secured before you let go with your other hand, or it may fall and injure you.

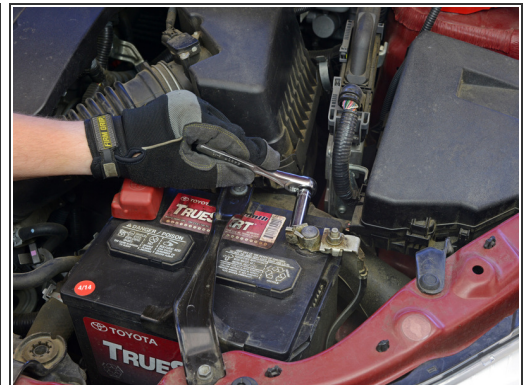


## Step 5



- Locate the battery. It's normally rectangular and roughly 8-14" across.
- ⓘ The battery may be easy to spot, or it may lie under a plastic cover—usually marked with positive (+) and/or negative (-) symbols.
- On some models, the battery may be located in the trunk—usually under or behind the trunk lining. Look around or consult your owner's manual.

## Step 6



- Using a correctly sized wrench or socket, loosen the nut/bolt securing the cable on the **negative** battery terminal.
- ⚠ Always disconnect the negative cable **first** (before removing the positive cable).
- ⓘ The negative terminal may be marked with a minus (-) symbol, or it may be unmarked. The positive terminal is almost always marked with a plus (+) symbol, often in red.
- If the nut or bolt spins without loosening, it may be necessary to counter-hold the opposite side with a second wrench or socket.



## Step 7



- Remove the cable from the negative battery terminal.

## Step 8



- ⚠ Prevent the cable from making accidental contact with the terminal by pushing it aside and/or wrapping the cable clamp with a dry rag.

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.

